

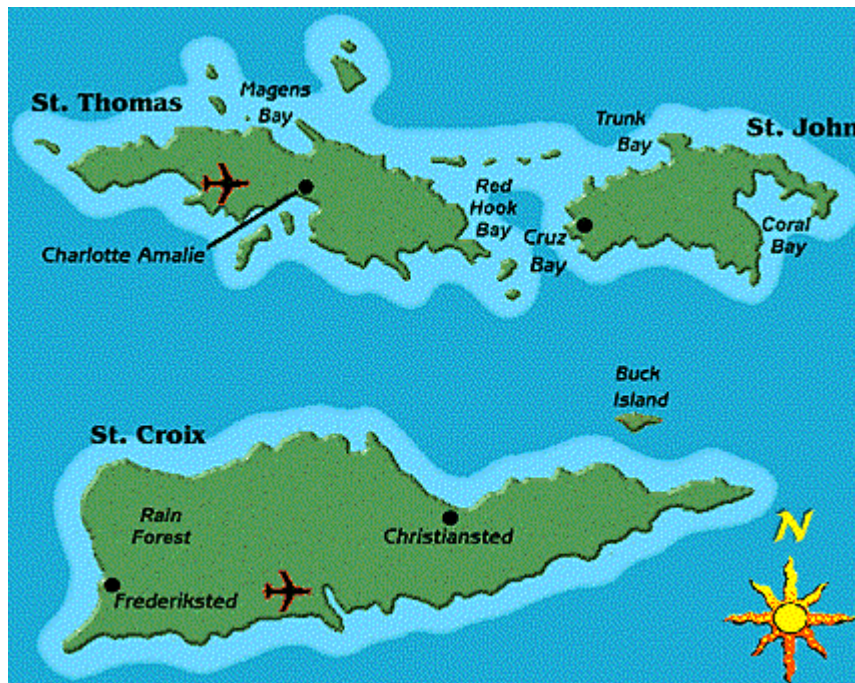
# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### U.S. Virgin Islands

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **U.S. Virgin Islands**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 123,498 (July 2002 estimate)
- Ethnicity: 15% white; 80% black; 5% other

### **Politics**

- Governor: Charles Wesley Turnbull<sup>2</sup>
- Lt. Governor: Vargrave Richards<sup>3</sup>
- U.S. House of Representatives: Donna Christensen<sup>4</sup>
- Virgin Islands Police Commissioner: Franz A. Christian, Sr.<sup>5</sup>

### **Programs and Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>6</sup>  
Designated in 1994, the Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA is responsible for the islands of Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra, St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program<sup>7</sup>  
Since FY 1998 when funding was first available through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, only one coalition in the Virgin Islands has received funding. In FY 1999, \$99,940 was awarded to the Village Virgin Islands Partners in Recovery/Unity Coalition, Christianstad, St. Croix.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>8</sup>  
Two sites in the Virgin Islands have received Federal funding and been officially recognized as Weed and Seed sites: Estate Grove Place (St. Croix) and Estate Bovoni (St. Thomas).
- FY 2001/2002 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Formula and Discretionary Grant summary for Virgin Islands:<sup>9</sup>
  - Formula Funding: \$1,035,703
    - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$623,641
    - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$155,862
    - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$50,000
    - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$206,200
  - Discretionary Funding: \$0
    - Mental Health - \$0
    - Substance Prevention - \$0
    - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$0
  - Total Mental Health Funds: \$412,062
  - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$623,641
  - Total Funds for Virgin Islands: \$1,035,703

- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Virgin Islands: \$1,398,472<sup>10</sup>
- There were no Virgin Islands recipients of the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant.<sup>11</sup>
- FY 1996-2002 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to the Virgin Islands:<sup>12</sup>
  - FY 1996: \$103,836
  - FY 1997: \$115,751
  - FY 1998: \$252,397
  - FY 1999: \$240,734
  - FY 2000: \$240,630
  - FY 2001: \$240,499
  - FY 2002: \$272,164
- There were no Virgin Islands recipients of the FY 2002 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.<sup>13</sup>
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant recipient in the Virgin Islands:<sup>14</sup>
  - \$94,200 to Harborview Apartments, Christianstad (St. Croix)

## **Drugs**

- Cocaine  
Crack is the drug of choice in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) and typically sells for \$20 per rock. Powder cocaine sells for \$9,000-\$14,000 per kilogram.<sup>15</sup>
- Marijuana  
Following crack cocaine, marijuana is the second most popular drug of choice in USVI. It sells for \$250-\$1,250 per pound and is readily available.<sup>16</sup>

## **Juveniles**

- Boot Camp After School Violence Diversionary Program<sup>17</sup>  
The purpose of this program is to reduce and prevent juvenile delinquency and illegal drug use. Services provided in the program are counseling, social skills enhancement, job skills training, school tutoring, drug treatment, and home visitation.

## **Enforcement**

- Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA initiatives include the following:<sup>18</sup>
  - Firearms Trafficking/Violent Crime – Led by ATF, this initiative investigates firearms trafficking organizations associated with narcotics traffickers and other violent criminal groups operating in USVI.
  - St. Croix Major Organization Investigation – Led by the DEA, this initiative conducts long-range complex investigations to dismantle drug trafficking organizations operating in St. Croix.
  - St. Thomas Major Organization Investigation – Led by the DEA, this initiative conducts long-range complex investigations to dismantle drug trafficking organizations operating in St. Thomas.

- Safe Street Task Force<sup>19</sup>  
The purpose of the Safe Street Task Force is to identify and dismantle criminal enterprises and organizations responsible for committing serious violent crimes in the USVI.
- Canine Drug Enforcement Project<sup>20</sup>  
The Canine Enforcement Project responds to the problem of illegal drug importation and distribution on St. Croix and St. Thomas. The Project also works toward identifying those who engage in related activities such as illegal weapons possession and violent crimes.
- Narcotics Strike Force<sup>21</sup>  
The Virgin Islands Police Department Narcotics Strike Force has the primary responsibility for the detection, capture, and preparation of evidence to prosecute drug violators throughout USVI.

### **Trafficking and Seizures**

- Traffickers use USVI as a transshipment point and a temporary storage location for drug shipments destined for Puerto Rico and the continental United States.<sup>22</sup>
- Drugs are smuggled from USVI to Puerto Rico and the United States via maritime vessels and commercial airlines.<sup>23</sup>

### **Courts**

- During FY 2001, 16% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in the Virgin Islands had committed drug offenses. More than half (53.3%) of the drug offenses involved powder cocaine.<sup>24</sup>

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Virgin Islands, FY 2001

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	8	53.3%
Crack cocaine	5	33.3
Heroin	1	6.7
Marijuana	1	6.7
Methamphetamine	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0

### **Corrections**

- Women Aftercare Program<sup>25</sup>  
This program is designed to treat and educate women who have children and are transitioning from prison to society. The program seeks to minimize repeat drug abuse, loss of employment, and loss of custody.

### **Sources**

<sup>1</sup> Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook*, 2002:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> Virgin Islands Government Web site: <http://www.usvi.org/>

<sup>3</sup> Virgin Islands Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.ltg.gov.vi/>

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- <sup>4</sup> U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.php>
- <sup>5</sup> Virgin Islands Police Department Web site: <http://www.vipd.gov.vi/home.htm>
- <sup>6</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_pr.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_pr.html)
- <sup>7</sup> Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, Virgin Islands section: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/vi.html>
- <sup>8</sup> Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center Web site, Virgin Islands section: [http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/virgin\\_islands.html](http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/virgin_islands.html)
- <sup>9</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/funding.html>
- <sup>10</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program State Allocations: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/html/FY2002BYRNE.htm>
- <sup>11</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>
- <sup>12</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, FY 2002 Corrections Programs Grants, Puerto Rico section: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/mapfiles/pr.htm>
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- <sup>14</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Federally Assisted Low-Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report*, FY 2001: <http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>
- <sup>15</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, *The Drug Trade in the Caribbean: A Threat Assessment*, August 2001: <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/intel/01019/index.html>
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>17</sup> Virgin Islands Law Enforcement Planning Commission, *2001 State Annual Report*, November 2001
- <sup>18</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_pr.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_pr.html)
- <sup>19</sup> Virgin Islands Law Enforcement Planning Commission, *2001 State Annual Report*, November 2001
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>21</sup> Virgin Islands Budget, Virgin Islands Police Department section: [http://www.usvi.org/oit/newbudget/virgin\\_islands\\_police\\_department.htm](http://www.usvi.org/oit/newbudget/virgin_islands_police_department.htm)
- <sup>22</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, *The Drug Trade in the Caribbean: A Threat Assessment*, August 2001: <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/intel/01019/index.html>
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>24</sup> United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2001 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Virgin Islands section: <http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2001/vi01.pdf>
- <sup>25</sup> Virgin Islands Law Enforcement Planning Commission, *2001 State Annual Report*, November 2001

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